

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-20 are now pending in this application for which applicants seek reconsideration.

Amendment

Claims 2 and 6 have been canceled, claims 1, 3-5, 7, and 8 have been amended to improve their form and clarify, and new claims 9-20 have been added to cover the illustrated embodiments. Independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to more clearly define the loudspeaker array and the function of the audio signal processing unit. The offsetting feature of original claim 8 has been moved to claim 10. No new matter has been introduced.

Drawing & Specification Objections

The examiner objected to the drawings because the features set forth in claims 3, 5, and 8 are not deemed illustrated. The examiner also objected to the specification and the claims because the examiner believes that the subject matter of claims 3 and 8 are not believed to be disclosed in the specification. Original pending claims have been carefully edited to improve their form, readability, and clarity to obviate these objections. The present drawing figures and the disclosure fully support the pending claims. Accordingly, applicants submit that the present amendment obviates these objections.

Art Rejection

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Furuta (JP 06-225379), and claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Furuta. Applicants submit that the present amendment overcome Furuta because Furuta would not have disclosed or taught dividing its speakers into blocks as set forth in independent claims 1 and 8.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that the pending claims patentably distinguish over the applied references and are in condition for allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicants urge the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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DATE

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